



southern bog lemming

Synaptomys cooperi

Kingdom: Animalia
Division/Phylum: Chordata - vertebrates
Class: Mammalia
Order: Rodentia
Family: Muridae

Features

The southern bog lemming is three to four inches long. It has a dark back with a reddish tint and a light colored belly with silver tips on the fur. The tail is dark above and light below and about the same length as the back foot. The upper incisors are wide, grooved, and orange.

Natural History

The southern bog lemming lives in areas of moist dense grasses, particularly bluegrass. It eats berries, bluegrass, and other green vegetation. It is active day and night. It does make some sounds and is known to swim. It builds burrows and surface runways. Mating probably occurs throughout the year with the most activity during the fall. The gestation period is slightly over three weeks. Litter size varies from one to eight. Young are born helpless but develop rapidly and are able to live on their own at about two weeks of age.

Habitats

wet prairies and fens

Iowa Status

common; native

Iowa Range

statewide

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.